

# city college news

## Calling new members for the College Council

For anyone wanting to connect at George Brown, College Council Chair Suzanne Kavanagh says the Council is a good place to start. "It's an ideal communications venue for the college because it involves representatives from all campuses, all divisions and all layers within those divisions."

Kavanagh says that June is recruitment time for new membership on the Council. However she adds, "Anyone can sit on the sub-committees – including student representatives. It's a great chance to communicate, exchange ideas and share best practices."

The College Council has three subcommittees, which meet with the participation of senior management repre-

sentatives. Their activities are reported to the College Committee that meets 10 times a year. The sub-committees and their senior management representatives are:

- Student and Staff Issues – Eugene Harrigan and Lori Shekter Wolfson.
- Diversity, Equity and Safety – Michael Cooke and Fran Dungey
- Academic Excellence – Marjorie McColm

Kavanagh believes that the work of the sub-committees is what has made the George Brown College Council one of the most progressive in the province. "We have accomplished a lot because we have adopted a decentralized approach. With the involvement



of senior management at the sub-committee level, we can make decisions much faster and remove a lot of the bureaucracy that can slow things down."

She adds, "What's great about how the College Council works at George Brown is that it allows us all to step back and see how each of us fits into the college community. It's not about telling people what to do, but about sharing

ideas, coming up with strategies, ensuring that what we do is in the best interests of our clients – and that's our students. They are the reason why we are all here."

*College Council vacancies will be posted in June. Those interested in being part of the College Council can contact Diane Fantinato at ext. 4472 or email [dfantina@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:dfantina@gbrownc.on.ca) for application forms.*

## 20 Year Club Reception celebrates 25 years



The 25th Annual 20 Year Club Reception was held on May 22 at Siegfried's. The event is held annually to honour current and past staff members who have achieved their 20-year milestone with the college. This year's reception drew

more than 200 guests who enjoyed a buffet dinner, door prizes and connecting with former friends and colleagues. Frank Sorochinsky delivered the opening remarks and presented new members with their 20 year pins. Former

Vice-President of Corporate Services Robert Struthers followed with the prize draw and Nancy Hood, Executive Director of Human Resources provided the closing remarks. Congratulations go to all our new 20 Year Club members!

Ian Ashworth  
Leslie Brailsford  
Patricia Chorney-Rubin  
Pamela Doyle  
Patricia Hayworth  
Moiz Kaderbhai  
James Kennedy  
Edward Ksenych  
Edouard Larocque  
Dennis Lawson  
Claudio Lewkowicz  
Robert Luker  
Christine Parsonage  
Susanna Phillips  
Edith Strasser  
Cheryl Stuart  
Nick Taurozzi  
Mario Ulcar  
Heather Urquhart  
Mary Vrabel  
Virginia Warren  
Mark Weber  
Noel Young

# Jack helps to set the table for the future

Walk into the main lobby of St. James Campus on some mornings and you may see a new face at the welcome desk helping students. That's Jack Schachner, the new senior project leader with the Student Life Cycle (SLC) project, who's taking a few minutes to get a first-hand understanding of the college, its staff, and students.

If Schachner looks a little nervous at the welcome desk it's because he has only been with the college for about two months – and doesn't have the information to help everyone. But he says, the staff at that counter has been most helpful in giving him a GBC education.

"Being new myself, I realize how important that first contact can be – I've been able to see some people on their way... some of the time," he says. "The few minutes a day I spend there helps me appreciate and experience first hand the diversity of the college."

As project manager, he works with the team on planning and tracking the SLC projects designed to improve college systems and increase student and staff

satisfaction. SLC projects range from the short-term, such as testing new designs for student areas and washrooms this summer; to the long-term, including a multi-year re-design of the college's student information system and the building of two one-stop service centres.

"The great thing about the SLC project is that everybody will benefit. I realize it is about working together to improve the services for students. Staff input and participation will shape the direction of these projects. I can't get from the front door to my office without seeing the people who are part of this project and that we're here to help."

Schachner isn't directly managing these projects himself – that's being done by the departments involved. But he is working with SLC Implementation Leaders Brenda Pipitone and Wayne Poirier and the college's management committee to ensure that the projects are co-ordinated and implemented smoothly.

"It's a complex, difficult



St. James caretaker Ali Haroun (left) with Jack Schachner, new senior project manager with the Student Life Cycle project. Schachner is getting to know the college, its staff and students in his new job helping SLC projects run smoothly.

project," he admits, but no more so than projects he has managed in the past. A former IT Director at the Toronto Stock Exchange, Schachner also founded and directed the Program Office for the City of Toronto's Y2K Compliance Project.

The SLC project is vital to the success of the college in the future, he says. "We're about making the college a better place for everybody – students, faculty, support staff and administrators.

Once implemented, SLC projects will create an environment of greater satisfaction and pride for all of us.

"We're setting the table for the future – and we're going to make it as appetizing and irresistible as possible. We know students will benefit and tell their friends, who will in turn become students. The students will benefit, the college will benefit, and the cycle will continue."

While staff teams have been working on designing projects for some months, the SLC leaders are eager to hear from any staff member or student with an idea or issue that could help shape the project work, Schachner says. "There is no exclusivity. This project is inclusive. Everybody should feel comfortable in giving us their concerns and ideas."

Schachner can be reached at ext. 2878 or by email at [jschachn@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:jschachn@gbrownc.on.ca).

For more information about the Student Life Cycle project, contact Jack Schachner, Brenda Pipitone at ext. 2614 or Wayne Poirier at ext. 2456, or by e-mail at [slc@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:slc@gbrownc.on.ca).

## Summer pilot for *gbctoday.ca* in the works

According to the *gbctoday.ca* Committee, the final technical pieces are falling into place as it prepares for a September roll-out. But first, there will be a summer pilot to work out any last minute details.

Project leader John Price – who works with committee members Bob Cox, Joyce Lamb, Cal Shaw and Christine Shreves – says that the intent is to run this limited pilot during the summer months for a select group of full-time students and faculty for the Business and Creative Arts and the Health Sciences and



Project leader John Price

Community Services divisions, as well as for ConEd students and faculty.

"It will give us a chance to refine the details and work

through any technical issues that may come up," says Price. "After that, we'll be ready to go live for everyone in time for the September session."

Price says that by that time, users should have access to email services and targeted messaging. "At logon, users will have access to a customized site that will be geared to their division and types of courses and/or interests."

He explains that *gbctoday.ca* will continue to be a work in progress. "We will definitely be adding features and functions as we

go. This will be a critical communications vehicle for the college and as such, will have a number of components built in such as WebCT for e-learning functions and the Banner Student Information System. Everything will be accessible through a single logon."

In the meantime, faculty should watch out for a new training CD that will be distributed some time in July. "That will tell them everything they need to know about working with *gbctoday.ca*," says Price.

# Recruitment and professional development top priorities for HR

It's been a busy year for administration and support staff in Human Resources – with much more to come as the double cohort draws near. The group has undergone significant restructuring, a number of staff changes, conducted extensive research and has doubled its efforts in recruitment and training activities to ensure that all staff is prepared.

Executive Director Nancy Hood says that this year will see 47 new staff positions, through hiring and job changes. Among those numbers will be at least 20 new faculty members. "This represents one of the biggest increases in more than a decade for the college," she says.

Right now recruitment and selection training programs are at the top of the to-do list, she adds. "Managers are being trained and coached on hiring policies and practices to ensure that we have everything in place for the fall. We're not just bringing in new people; there have been a large number of promotions and reclassifications in the support staff area over the past year."

But it's not just about the new hires. Hood reports that staff development programs are also in progress to support new people coming in as well as to enhance the skills and competencies of the current staff. "These have been closely aligned and integrated with the College's Centres of Excellence to ensure that we provide the orientation, training and professional development opportunities for our staff. In fact, we make sure that everything we do – from hiring, training and orientation, to human resources consultation services – is linked to the strategic direction of the Centres."

She reports that professional development activities for faculty and staff have been ongoing under the direction of Bob Cox, and will extend throughout the summer. Many of the professional development and training sessions are listed on the Staff Development Web site. In addition, Hood says that the college is planning a "Celebration of our Staff" for Intercession Week from October 20 to 24, Thursday, October 23 is the planned date for a special staff



For the past year, the HR Group has been working hard at living up to its mandate to foster staff success.

day and official opening of the new campus buildings.

There has also been some major restructuring within the HR group, including the creation of three new consultancy roles. Supporting these consultants are departmental specialists. "Each consultant works with a particular group of line managers within departments to help them achieve their goals by reviewing their human resources requirements and providing any HR assistance they may need," explains Hood.

June 19 will also see the



HR Consultants Sung Nahn, Christine Shreves and Regina Lapworth are now available to work with line managers in their recruitment and training efforts.

presentation of an extensive college-wide up-dated Report on Employment Equity to the College Council. Details of the Report will be provided in a later issue of CCN.

## New Chair of George Brown Chef School an international culinary figure



She has cooked for royalty, traveled the world and worked with some of the greatest international chefs. Now she has come to George Brown to pass on her passion for the culinary arts.

The Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism is pleased to welcome Christine Chamberlain as Chair of George Brown Chef School. Her appointment was the result of a reorganization of the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism into two Centres: The George Brown Chef School and the Centre for Hospitality & Tourism Management.

No stranger to George Brown, Chamberlain has been involved in many Chef School activities in the past 12 years, including student externships, membership in the Industry Sector Council, and more

recently as a member of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Culinary Arts™ Steering Committee. She also helped establish the Italian Culinary program at George Brown College.

With more than 20 years of experience as an executive chef, Chamberlain trained under Master Chef Vittorio Masi at the renowned Toronto restaurant, Vittorio's Osteria. An authority in Italian cuisine, she has traveled extensively throughout Italy researching its foods and culinary history.

Before joining George Brown, she was Director,

Culinary & Beverage / Executive Chef for Carra Operations Limited.

Chamberlain's many honours include cooking for the Royal Family for their 10-day trip to Canada in 1998. She was named a Fellow of The Ontario Hospitality Institute in 1999, and was the only Canadian invited to attend the World Asian Food Conference in 1998. Christine is a member of The James Beard Foundation, International Association of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, and The Chef Collaborative – among many others.

# Tour of the Trades delivering the message to senior elementary schools

On May 16, a group of senior elementary school teachers and guidance counselors visited George Brown Casa Loma Campus for the first ever Tour of the Trades. The day-long event was organized by the Toronto District School board Pre-Apprenticeship Program Committee and the TDSB School to Work Committee in partnership with George Brown College.

Participants spent the day hearing presentations, visiting the training programs at George Brown and talking to staff and students about their experiences in the programs for skilled trades and apprenticeship. Participants included Chuck Hay,

Lead Principal for TDSB and Leo Suokas, Associate Dean, Faculty of Technology.

Carmen Camuti, Instructional Leader School Services, Technological Education for the TDSB says "We never have the opportunity to talk to elementary school counselors about apprenticeship and technical opportunities for students. But these are the people who play a very influential role in terms of student placement in secondary school. This is an excellent venue to show them what is available and how they can help direct students with an interest in the trades on a successful career path."



## George Brown Chef Escoffier Society Award 2003 recipient

George Brown Chef School professor Stephen Langley was recently presented with the Escoffier Society Award for 2003. The Award was presented to him in recognition of the time and service he has dedicated to the Escoffier Society and its members as examiner and team leader for the Canadian Culinary Institute (CCI) and the Certified Chef de Cuisine Program (CCC). Founded in 1960, The Escoffier Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of professional chefs and cooks.

## Seniors take the spotlight at Gerontology Program event

George Brown's Gerontology Program recently partnered with Ryerson's School of Gerontology to present a forum on issues related to aging entitled "Take Back Our Aging: Do media Images of Aging Influence Who We Are?". The forum, which was held at the Roger's Communication Centre near GBC's new Ryerson Campus, began with a dramatic presentation of *If Not Now... When?* by The Act II Studio, a Theatre School and Drama Centre for the 50-plus from Ryerson. The play approached various issues relating to ageism and public perceptions of seniors.

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion that included retired George Brown Activation Program Professor Marlys Kosmalski; Dr. Joseph Springer, Ryerson Professor and Researcher on Housing and Older Adults; Sarah Jane Grove, Columnist with Toronto Star and writer of "The Grandparent Column"; and Robert Gibbons, a senior who received his PhD at Ryerson and specializes in the area of older people and television viewing.

CBC Radio's Andy Barrie served as moderator for the discussion. Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, Dean of Community Services and Health Sciences, thanked everyone who participated.

Barbara Librach, GBC Program Coordinator for the Activation Coordinator/ Gerontology Program says, "The evening gave everyone a chance to see how seniors view themselves, as well as how we view them. It was a great eye opener for the audience."

## upcoming events

### Free Career Planning Workshop

June 9 (6:30 to 9:30 pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 461D  
Call 416-415-2000 ext. 3444 and press 1 to register.

### Applied Degree Information Session

June 11(6:30 to 8:30 pm)

300 Adelaide St. E.  
Call Anne Kennedy at 416-415-5000 ext. 4476

### Hospitality & Tourism Discovery Days

June 11, July 16, August 13 (2:00 to 4:00 pm)

Take a complete tour of the facilities, see demonstrations by chef/instructors, etc.

Call Sandra Silva at 416-415-5000 ext. 2239

### Convocation 2003

June 17 and 18 (11:00 am to 8:00 pm)

John W.H. Basset Theatre  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 225 Front St. W.  
Call 416-585-8000

### Safe Walk is here for the whole College Community

Contact us at [safewalk@gbrown.on.ca](mailto:safewalk@gbrown.on.ca) or call 416-415-5000 ext 2721. We take your safety seriously.

## city college news

is a publication of the Marketing and Communications Department, George Brown College at 200 King St. East, Room 542E, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9  
Story Ideas?

Contact Rosalie Starkey at 416-415-5000 ext. 4842 or [rstarkey@gbrown.on.ca](mailto:rstarkey@gbrown.on.ca)

Editor: Joyce Lamb Writer: Denise Deveau

Contents copyright George Brown College, 2003.